

From: Paul Greatbatch
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 10:56am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

You will have to be the brave souls who make up for the failings of your predecessors.

Like a parent that is forced to deal with a troubled teen because they did not enforce discipline at a younger age, the current situation demands revolutionary, not evolutionary, action. The issue of structural remedy cannot be removed from consideration.

Fact: Microsoft has been found to be a monopoly.

Despite all PR and marketing effort to the contrary, this ruling is public knowledge and has been upheld in a separate ruling.

Fact: Microsoft has manipulated the marketplace to its own advantage to limit reseller, manufacturer and consumer choice.

The company has threatened the marketplace with drastic repercussions if matters do not run their course in a manner that is advantageous to its bottom line. It has forced competitors out of business, not by quality or innovation, but by abuse of its monopoly position.

Fact: Microsoft has made less than subtle threats that any action taken against it would be injurious to the nation's economy.

These statements have reverberated through the marketplace and political halls. The fact is, if the nation can weather September 11, it can weather structural remedies against an abusive technology company.

Fact: Microsoft has forced bloated and unsecure software into the marketplace.

The term 'bloatware' is defined by Microsoft and its security problems are legendary. Even the FBI released an alert as of late asking users to disable features that are core to the future of Microsoft's .NET propagation. While this affected a relatively small number of users, it is the latest example of Microsoft's disregard for consumers.

Fact: Microsoft has amassed a huge cash reserve by avoiding tax payments.

The company skirts the tax laws by having a relatively few individuals hold a large portion of the company's stock, which translates to the company acting on the personal agendas of these few individuals as opposed to a wider variety of company shareholders.

Fact: Similar measures proposed in the past have done nothing to stem the growing monopoly power of Microsoft.

Again, to use the analogy of the parent: when grounding the child and removing their allowance for a few weeks does not resolve the behavioral issues, more stringent action needs to be taken.

An imposed structural remedy (3 companies: 1 for software, 1 for hardware, 1 for internet) will not bring the economy crashing to its knees. The only people that will be upset by such a decision will be the few majority stockholders of Microsoft who have their personal agendas of greed and control upset by a long overdue, but deserving, punishment.

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Best Regards,

Paul